



PRESS RELEASE

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2005 Potato Chemical Usage Survey Results Released

OLYMPIA, Wash., June 2, 2006 – The National Agricultural Statistics Service released the results of the 2005 Potato Chemical Usage Survey. NASS's Washington Field Office has published excerpts of this report focusing on the Washington Potato Crop. The publication is available at:

www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Publications/Ag_Chemical_Use/potch06.pdf

Washington was one of eight states (including Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin) surveyed for Potato Chemical Use. This release compares data from the 2005 Potato Chemical Usage Survey to the 2003 Survey. Nitrogen was applied to 100 percent of the 154,000 harvested acres in Washington in 2005, with phosphates applied to 98 percent, potash applied to 92 percent, and sulfur applied to 89 percent of the planted acres. **Metribuzin** was the most commonly applied herbicide in Washington in 2005, with 76 percent of the planted acres treated. The most commonly applied insecticide was **Esfenvalerate** with 60 percent of the planted acres treated, and **Mancozeb** was the most commonly applied fungicide with 67 percent of planted acres treated.

The data were compiled from the Agricultural Resources Management Survey (ARMS) and 6,034 usable records were collected. ARMS screening samples were drawn from the NASS (National Agricultural Statistics Service) List Sampling Frame. This extensive sampling frame covers all types of farms and accounts for approximately 90 percent of all land in farms in the United States. Data collection occurred primarily during the months of September to December 2005. Producers of fall potatoes were last asked about their pest management practices in 2003.